



ABS.Stat BETA

What is ABS.Stat Beta?

Access ABS.Stat Beta

ABS.Stat Beta is an interactive free online tool that presents data in a searchable, flexible and dynamic way.

ABS.Stat provides you with two options;

- a web browser interface where you can view, query and download data; and
- a web services interface described in a machine-processable format using the Statistical Data and Metadata Standard (SDMX) allowing machine-to-machine mechanisms for accessing and sharing ABS data

The ABS.Stat web browser interface allows you to:

- search and discover ABS statistics
- query, view and download data - choose pre-packaged data or customise data to your own requirements
- view valuable metadata alongside the data
- export data in a range of formats such as Excel and CSV as well as SDMX.

The ABS.Stat web services allows the exchange of data between computer systems (the machine-to-machine services) facilitating the sharing of data through a programmatic interface across the internet.

Full 'User Assistance' for both options is available from the top right hand navigation bar.

Selected datasets are loaded as soon as possible after their 11:30am release on the ABS website. However, data in the ABS.Stat beta release may **not necessarily be the most up to date**. You are advised to check the ABS website (www.abs.gov.au) for the latest data. We have created an ABS.Stat release calendar which provides expected dataset release and update information.

ABS.Stat uses software which has been jointly developed by a consortium of organisations including the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Statistics New Zealand and others.

Access ABS.Stat Beta today and tell us what you think!



Why a beta release?

ABS.Stat beta release allows users to try ABS.Stat and provide feedback, recognising there is still work to be done on enhancing the tool as it is in development and we know there are still some issues to resolve. We have compiled a list of issues identified so far and are working to rectify these.

This beta version does not include Australian financial year data or any quarterly data with reference periods other than the standard March, June, September and December quarters, for example, detailed quarterly Labour Force data which are issued in February, May, August and November.

Future versions of ABS.Stat will include financial year and all quarterly datasets along with delivery of the latest data with embargo controls similar to the ABS website.

If you find further issues please email us at abs.stat@abs.gov.au. We also invite you to provide your

feedback on the overall design, content and usability of ABS.Stat via the 'feedback form' found in the 'getting started' box. The ABS appreciates your input - it will help us as we further enhance the product.



Why is the ABS developing ABS.Stat?

ABS.Stat aims to improve access to multidimensional, aggregated ABS data. It is being developed in response to user demand for more powerful and flexible tools for research and data exchange. It will meet the needs of large data consumers (including, international organisations, Australian government and value added re-sellers) as well as providing a user interface for all users of ABS data.



Where can I find help using ABS.Stat Beta?

ABS.Stat User Assistance Material can be accessed from the left hand navigation bar. View our suite of Online Video Tutorials, Frequently Asked Questions and User Guides for both the ABS.Stat Web Browser and the SDMX Web Services.

This page last updated 8 May 2014

ABS.Stat Beta Release Calendar updated 20/06/2014

Publication	Catalogue Number	Frequency	Current Reference Period	Date Last Updated	Next Expected Update
Economy					
Balance of Payments and International Investment Position	5302.0	Quarterly	March Qtr 2014	3 June 2014	2 September 2014
Business Indicators	5676.0	Quarterly	March Qtr 2014	2 June 2014	1 September 2014
Consumer Price Index (CPI)	6401.0	Quarterly	March Qtr 2014	23 April 2014	23 July 2014
Residential Property Price Indexes (previously House Price Indexes)	6416.0	Quarterly	March Qtr 2014	13 May 2014	12 August 2014
Housing Finance	5609.0	Monthly	April 2014	10 June 2014	11 July 2014
International Merchandise Exports	5368.0	Monthly	April 2014	5 June 2014	2 July 2014
International Merchandise Imports	5439.0	Monthly	May 2014	17 June 2014	17 July 2014
International Trade Price Indexes	6457.0	Quarterly	March Qtr 2014	1 May 2014	31 July 2014
Labour Force	6202.0	Monthly	May 2014	12 June 2014	10 July 2014
Lending Finance	5671.0	Monthly	April 2014	13 June 2014	14 July 2014
Private New Capital Expenditure and Expected Expenditure	5625.0	Quarterly	March Qtr 2014	29 May 2014	28 August 2014
Producer Price Indexes	6427.0	Quarterly	March Qtr 2014	2 May 2014	1 August 2014
Sales of New Motor Vehicles	9314.0	Monthly	May 2014	17 June 2014	15 July 2014
Wage Price Index	6345.0	Quarterly	March Qtr 2014	21 May 2014	13 August 2014
Industry					
Building Approvals	8731.0	Monthly	April 2014	2 June 2014	3 July 2014
Internet activity, Household Use of Information Technology	8153.0	Biannual	December 2013	8 April 2014	7 October 2014
Mineral and Petroleum Exploration	8412.0	Quarterly	March Qtr 2014	2 June 2014	1 September 2014
Retail Trade	8501.0	Monthly	April 2014	3 June 2014	3 July 2014
Tourist Accommodation	8635.0	Annual	June 2013	26 September 2013	19 December 2014
Population/People					
Apparent Consumption of Alcohol	4307.0.55.001	Annual	2011-12	18 September 2013	TBC
Regional Population Growth, Australia	3218.0	Annual	2012-13	3 April 2014	TBC
Annual Population Estimates (ERP) by Sex, Age, Regions of Australia	3235.0	Annual	2011	31 August 2013	28 August 2014
Quarterly Population Estimates (ERP) - subset of 3101.0 (Australian Demographic Statistics)	3101.0	Quarterly	December 2013	19 June 2014	TBC
Migration, Australia, 2011-12 and 2012-13	3412.0	Annual	2011-2012 and 2012-13	18 December 2013	December 2014
Population Projections, Australia, 2012 to 2101	3222.0	Irregular	2012 - 2101	26 November 2013	TBC
National Regional Profile (NRP)	1379.0.55.001	Annual	2007 - 2011	3 June 2013	TBC

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Here are the issues we know about (as at 2 May 2014) which we are working to resolve.

Functionality

- The "Find in Themes" search does not advise you if there are no search results, so it looks as though a search has not been performed. You may wish to use the drop-down menu to search for themes.
- The date and time stamp is currently GMT (Greenwich Mean Time) but we are investigating whether we can change this to AEST.
- ABS.Stat currently times out after 20 minutes of inactivity. You will need to refresh your browser, however you will then lose any selections and layout changes you have made. We are currently looking at extending the time period before a time out occurs.
- When using the search option and selecting an entry in the search, the metadata information panel (right hand side tab) does not update to the current selection.
- ABS.Stat does not display release information.
- Metadata print window does not display lower-level metadata.
- Search for multiple words usually returns a "null" find. ABS.Stat requires the use of quotations surrounding the phrase (e.g. "Exports of Goods") to work correctly.
- Combine Queries does not work for certain combinations of tables/datasets. Furthermore, errors also occur when exporting certain combinations of combined tables to Excel. This issue has been raised with OECD and they are investigating.
- RestSDMX - the URL's generated by the user interface always have start time and end time given in years. In cases where start and end time is the same year and data is not annual (i.e. monthly or quarterly), the query will return an empty response. Also, errors have been observed whenever a user attempts to get all data using 'all' as the keyword. In the meantime, users can list all dimensions (in lieu of using 'all') as a workaround.

Visual

- Large column labels do not wrap, making it hard to read compressed descriptions.

Product Limitations

- There is no facility to save queries. We do have a save query option planned however we can not implement this yet due to current technical limitations.
- Does not include Australian financial year data or any quarterly data with reference periods other than the standard March, June, September and December quarters, for example, detailed quarterly Labour Force data which are issued in February, May, August and November. Future versions of ABS.Stat will include financial year and all quarterly datasets.
- As we do not load new datasets or update dataset series immediately following the 11:30am release, data may not necessarily be the most up to date. You should check the ABS website (www.abs.gov.au) for the latest data and we will continue to load new datasets and update dataset series, as soon as possible after the embargo (11.30 am.) is lifted on the day the data is released.

- Time Series IDs are not yet available within the product. These will be included in a future release of ABS.Stat.
- The Draw Chart function will not work if your selection has more than 10,000 cells.
- The Draw Chart function requires Adobe Flash, and will not work natively on devices or browsers which do not support Flash.
- The Mapping function is currently not operational in ABS.Stat. This functionality will be added in the future as datasets in ABS.Stat are updated with the necessary location dimensions.
- It is not possible to print data directly from the browser in ABS.Stat. Printing is available by exporting.

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ABS.Stat User Assistance Material



Web Browser User Guide

[Web Browser User Guide](#) - everything you need to know about ABS.Stat web browser interface.



Web Services User Guide

[Web Services User Guide](#) - everything you need to know about our SDMX Web Services.



Frequently Asked Questions

[Frequently Asked Questions](#) - answers to the most commonly asked questions.



Online Video Tutorials

[Online Video Tutorials](#) - a series of short videos demonstrating ABS.Stat and how to use its various functions.

This page first published 1 March 2013, last updated 30 April 2014



Frequently Asked Questions about ABS.Stat - Beta

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Answers to Frequently Asked Questions about ABS.Stat - Beta

Q1. What is ABS.Stat?

ABS.Stat is an interactive, free online tool that presents datasets in a searchable, flexible and dynamic way. ABS.Stat presents users with two options, a web browser to view, query and download data and a web service to facilitate machine to machine communication via the use of the Statistical Data and Metadata Standard (SDMX). The web service enables other organisations to interface with ABS.Stat and customise the data in their own environments.

The ABS.Stat web interface allows you to:

- search and discover ABS statistics
- query, view and download data - choose pre-packaged data or customise data to your own requirements
- view valuable metadata alongside the data
- export data in a range of formats such as Excel and CSV as well as SDMX.

Access to ABS.Stat is open and free of charge.

Q2. When will it be released and what statistics will be available?

ABS.Stat - Beta was released publicly on 14 December 2012. ABS.Stat provides a range of data released by the ABS.

Data in this ABS.Stat is not necessarily the most up to date, you should check the ABS website (ABS.gov.au) for the latest data. We will continue to load new datasets and update dataset series, as soon as possible after the embargo (11.30 am.) is lifted on the day the data is released.

This version does not include Australian financial year data or any quarterly data with reference periods other than the standard March, June, September and December quarters. For example, detailed quarterly Labour Force data are issued in February, May, August and November and will not be included initially.

However, future versions of ABS.Stat will include financial year and all quarterly datasets along with delivery of the latest data with embargo controls similar to the ABS website.

Q3. How will ABS.Stat differ from the current publication of statistics?

Currently ABS statistics are available on our website as static Excel spreadsheets, PDF and SuperTable SRD (summary record database) file downloads. In contrast, ABS.Stat provides a dynamic and direct method of accessing ABS data through the use of dynamic tables and intuitive search functionality. ABS.Stat also provides web services in SDMX format for automated machine-to-machine data exchange. Like the ABS Census products, CDATA online and Census Tablebuilder, ABS.Stat provides:

- multi-dimensional aggregated data
- support for pre-packaged tables and dynamic self-service pick and choose tables
- extendable data visualisation
- SDMX web data services for automated and efficient machine-to-machine data exchange

Q4. Who will be able to use ABS.Stat?

Anyone can use ABS.Stat as it is aimed at all users and consumers of our data. ABS.Stat has features that support easy selection of and access to data for those whose needs are simple and straightforward. In addition it has features that support the needs of those with more advanced and complex requirements. To learn more about using ABS.Stat please refer to the [ABS.Stat User Guide](#).

Q5. Will ABS.Stat be free?

Yes. Like all the statistics available through our current dissemination methods including the ABS website, access to ABS.Stat will be free of charge. In future ABS.Stat versions we will be offering a free login account service for those who want to save their dynamically generated tables for viewing later on and for those who want to customise their experience through setting user preferences in order to quickly access pre-packaged datasets of interest

Q6. Are there any special system requirements for ABS.Stat?

No. You will require the following standard internet access set-up:

- Broadband Internet access;
- Internet Browsing software: Windows Internet Explorer 6.0 or higher, Mozilla Firefox 2.0 or higher, Safari 3.1 or higher.

Q7. How can I use and consume the ABS.Stat web services?

High-end data consumers can use ABS.Stat web services to automatically extract datasets via machine-to-machine communications over the internet. Establishing ABS.Stat web services requires some technical knowledge as the web services are written using the Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP) standard. Information about how establish web services is available on the [ABS.Stat User Guide](#) page.

Q8. What is SDMX and why is it relevant to ABS.Stat?

SDMX, or Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange, is an initiative to foster common, open standards for the exchange of statistical information. It aims to foster common standards and guidelines for the exchange and sharing of statistical data and metadata, where the two are presented together, with an emphasis on aggregated data. Inclusion of the metadata gives context to the data exchanged, and helps ensure that the information is immediately understandable and therefore more useful than if it was presented without the relevant metadata.

Common standards and guidelines created by the SDMX community enable easy access to statistical data and make data more comparable, more meaningful and generally more usable. For further information please see the [SDMX website](#).

Q9. How can I learn more about using ABS.Stat?

The instructional [ABS.Stat User Guide](#) will help you to become familiar with the functionality and features of ABS.Stat. The release of ABS.Stat Beta will introduce you to multi-dimensional data cubes and give you the chance to learn more and interact further with ABS.Stat.

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ABS.Stat Online Video Tutorials

To help you get started with ABS.Stat we have produced a series of short tutorials. You will need Flash Player/Quick Time Player to view the tutorials.



1. Welcome to ABS.Stat

Introducing ABS.Stat: what is it, why has it been developed, and what are the benefits and uses of this product?

Duration: 01:39

File size: 1.12MB



2. A tour of the ABS.Stat Browser Interface

A quick tour around the ABS.Stat browser to see what functions are available.

Duration: 03:44

File size: 4.02MB



3. About ABS.Stat Metadata

An explanation of what metadata is, including the various levels - Dataset, Dimension, Dimension Member and Observation and where to find metadata within ABS.Stat.

Duration: 03:29

File size: 4.97MB



4. Accessing and Locating Data

All about searching and browsing themes, tables and predefined tables.

Note: Video 5 - building customised tables will define and explain dimension and dimension members to you in further detail.

Duration: 03:21

File size: 4.31MB



5. Building Customised Tables

How to construct your own customised tables by selecting dimensions, layout and custom options.

Duration: 02:34

File size: 2.43MB



6. Building Customised Tables: Selecting Dimensions

Continuation of 5. Building Customised Tables: Explains selecting and de-selecting various

dimension members.

Duration: 09:51

File size: 7.50MB



7. Other functions in selecting dimensions

Information on dimension member colour coding and searching dimensions. Demonstration of quick access to customised dimensions.

Duration: 03:33

File size: 3.89MB



8. Layout

Learn how to customise the layout of your table.

Duration: 03:19

File size: 4.20MB



9. Customise Table Options

How to modify characteristics of datasets to make your table more useable.

Duration: 02:07

File size: 2.42MB



10. Exporting Information

How to export your table to an Excel, CSV, or SDMX file.

Duration: 02:45

File size: 5.37MB



11. My Queries

How to combine two or more different queries.

Duration: 01:55

File size: 2.23MB

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GovHack 2014



'Would you like to mashup, reuse, and remix government data?'

**1,000 registrations
\$70k in prizes**

The Australian Bureau of Statistics, as part of our leadership of the National Statistical Service, is proud to announce that it is once again a Gold sponsor of the GovHack 2014 event to be held in 11 locations around Australia. This is the second year that the ABS has been associated with this increasingly popular event. GovHack is a key event which the ABS promotes during APS Innovation Month.

▼ What is GovHack?

GovHack is an event that draws together people from government, industry, academia and the general public to mashup, reuse, and remix government data. GovHack is about finding new ways to do great things with data. It encourages open government and open data. Outcomes include mashups, apps, data visualisations, web services, application programming interfaces and more.

GovHack participants will have the opportunity to develop outcomes utilising ABS data available through ABS.Stat in competing for awards directly sponsored by the ABS. ABS.Stat is also one of the official datasets promoted for use in the event.

▼ What's in it for you?

GovHack provides an opportunity to get exposure to new ideas from different perspectives about technologies and approaches you never get to experiment with in your day to day job or at university. This is an opportunity to test run those ideas you've had, but never had the chance to partner up with someone or the dedicated time with experts around you to make the idea a reality.

You will also be in the running for prize money and grants for the best work undertaken with government data across a number of major and minor categories. Categories and prizes will be announced on Friday 11 July 2014 on the GovHack Website.

▼ Who can enter?

GovHack is a free event open to everyone and anyone. From data vis, designers and user experience people through to web developers and hard core application developers.

If you want to be part of this exciting event, register now as only limited places are available.

For more information on GovHack, please visit the GovHack Website.

